THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Non Clearance of Projects on Environmental Grounds

7667. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT and FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that several projects have been halted or delayed due to protests on environment grounds and that costs of such projects have increased due to such delays; and

(b) if so, what steps Government intend to take to end the dichotomy between environmental destruction and sustainable development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Project proposals submitted for environmental clearance to the Government alongwith the relevant data are required to be finally decided as of now within a stipulated time frame. However, delays in implementation of projects have occurred in a limited number of cases in the past due to reasons such as non compliance of conditions laid down at the time of granting environmental clearance or through legal and other action by environmental groups, and cost escalations may have taken place in such cases.

(b) In order to harmonise development with environmental protection, the Government has sought to promote awareness of the concept of sustainable development and to integrate it into the planning process. The concept of sustainable development underlies our approach to plan investment in major schemes and in the environmental impact assessment of these schemes.

Quantity of Coliform Count in Yamuna River

7668. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT and FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coliform count in the Yamuna is 7500 per 100 m.l. when the river enters Delhi and 24,000,000 per 100 m.l. when it leaves the city;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this stretch of the Yamuna also receive about 20 million litres of industrial effluents, including about 5 lakh of DDT wastes, per day;

(c) whether it is a fact that one hundred percent of all solid waste collected in Bombay goes to landfills; and

(d) if so, what steps Government intend to take to curtail the severe environmental degradation and health hazards caused by such disposal of urban wastes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that in the stretch of river Yamuna in Delhi the coliform count is very high. For the year 1993, the average value of facal coliform at Palla i.e. upstream of Wazirabad was found to be 3794/100 m.l. while that at Okhla D/S of Delhi it was 24,00,000/100 m.l.

(b) This stretch of river Yamuna also receives around 300 millions litre per day(MLD) of industrial waste water per day.

(c) According to the survey carried out by operations Research Group, Baroda, the collection efficiency of solid waste is 96.9%. Part of it is utilised for recycling particularly paper, plastics, metallic wastes, glass, organic wastes etc.

(d) Government is encouraging recycling of solid wastes and also utilisation of these wastes for making compost, energy pellets. etc.